

CONGRESS.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Dec. 19.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from governor Harrison, covering sundry resolutions of the legislature of Indiana against a division of that territory, which were referred to the committee constituted yesterday on the same subject.

The bill supplementary to the act regulating the grants of land appropriated for the refugees from the British provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia, was read the third time, and passed without a division.

The bill to make provision for persons that have been disabled by known wounds received in the actual service of the U. States, during the revolutionary war, was read the third time and passed by a great majority. Ayes 84.

The bill supplementary to the act making provision for the payment of claims of citizens of the United States on the government of France, &c. under the convention of April 30, 1803, having passed through the committee of the whole, was ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.

The report of the committee of commerce and manufactures on the petition of E. Toppan and others, authorising the remission of duties on certain goods exported to New Orleans, having passed through the committee of the whole, the house referred the same to the said committee to bring in a bill.

In committee of the whole; Mr. Gregg in the chair; on the bill to revive and continue in force an act entitled an act to suspend, in part, the act entitled an act regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes.

The bill was read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act, entitled an act to suspend in part the act, entitled an act regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes, approved on the thirtieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and two, shall be, and the same is hereby revived and continued in force for the term of years from the passing hereof.

Mr. Tenney moved the following substitute after the enacting words:

That so much of the act entitled an act regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes, as is contained in the second section thereof be and the same is hereby further suspended during the term of years from the end of the present session of Congress.

Mr. Varnum wished that the section referred to, which prohibits any foreign coin, excepting Spanish milled dollars, or parts thereof from being a legal tender, might, instead of being suspended, be repealed. That provision, he said, had been introduced under the idea that the coin of the United States would be sufficient for the demand, which had been found to be erroneous.

Mr. J. Clay differed so widely from the gentleman from Massachusetts that he entertained strong doubts of the policy even of suspending the provision. There were very few foreign coins in circulation besides Spanish milled dollars and British guineas. If the suspension were therefore confined to these, it would be, so far as respected the public convenience, equivalent to a repeal. Every one knew that there had been some years past, a large quantity of bad money in circulation. By the proposed repeal, this description of money would be again brought back.

Mr. Macon (speaker) said that if the idea of the gentleman from Pennsylvania were adopted, it would be necessary to go further than he had suggested. In addition to the coins mentioned by him, it would be proper to extend it to Portuguese guineas, which were extensively circulated. But he considered the proposition of the gentleman from Massachusetts the best. When we can do without foreign coins we may declare that they shall not be a legal tender. Since last May, when the provision contemplated to be renewed, ceased, there had been no complaints. The necessities of the country required the use of French coins. With regard to our own coin, in many parts of the union it was as difficult to find gold as a flying eagle. As to his part of the country, Mr. Macon said it never found its way.

Mr. Varnum moved to amend the amendment of Mr. Tenney, by striking out the words in *italic*, and inserting in lieu thereof the words, *repealed*.

Mr. J. Clay hoped the amendment would not take place. If there were any real inconvenience it would be entirely obviated by the proposed suspension. He acknowledged that when he was up before, the Portuguese gold had escaped his attention. But it was so clipped and mutilated as scarcely to be considered as coin; and the fact was that it was chiefly confined to the banks. If the repealing provision should be confined to the gold coins he should have no objection to it; but there was no necessity of introducing into the circulation any other silver coin than that now authorized. Some of the foreign coins was so roughly executed as not to furnish a proper protection against counterfeiters. The great security, attending coins as well as bank notes, was the excellence of the workmanship.

Mr. Jackson was in favor of the amend-

ment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Varnum.) All economical writers agreed that the wealth of nations was intimately connected with the quantity of the circulating precious metals. For this reason he thought it impolitic to restrict the circulation of foreign coins in the United States. It was likewise improper to legislate frequently on the subject. It had been found that the mint could not furnish a sufficient supply of coin for our purposes, especially while such vast quantities went out of the country. All objections made to a repeal were obviated by the consideration that the existing law provides that foreign coins shall pass by weight. Mr. Jackson concluded by saying that it was his opinion that it was for the interest of the country that money should circulate more extensively than it ever had done.

Mr. Varnum said that the gentleman from Pennsylvania grounded his objection on the idea that foreign coins were more easily counterfeited than those of the U. States. He should, however, recollect that those who resided in the country did not possess that kind of knowledge which belonged to those acquainted with bank transactions; they saw but little money, and always in small quantities; and were as likely to take false coin of the United States, as foreign coin. The real situation of the United States as to money was this. In some parts of the country there was no specie whatever; there was nothing but paper. In the eastern parts of the union this was peculiarly so, owing to the great number of banks, which, circulated the greater part of their notes at a considerable distance. This scarcity of specie arose in a great measure from foreign coins not being allowed to be a legal tender. He thought it would be highly beneficial to the United States to admit all foreign coins to be a legal tender, under the existing limitations of law. The question was then taken on Mr. Varnum's amendment, which was agreed to—Ayes 79.

Mr. Tenney's amendment, thus amended, was agreed to, when the committee rose. The house immediately took up, concurred in their report and ordered the bill to a third reading tomorrow.

On motion of Mr. G. W. Campbell, Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire, whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary to be made in the act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontiers, with authority to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Cook, Resolved, that the committee of commerce and manufactures be instructed to consider the several acts relative to bounties on salted fish taken in vessels of different sizes, and to consider what alterations, if any, are necessary to equalize such bounties; and that they be authorized to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Stanton, Resolved, that the committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire, whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary to be made in the several acts fixing the salaries and emoluments of the collectors of the duties on Imports and Tonnage, and that they be authorized to report by bill or otherwise.

Friday, December 20.

An engrossed bill, "supplementary to the act making provision for the payment of claims of citizens of the United States on the government of France," &c. under the convention of the 30th April, 1803, was read the third time and passed without a division.

An engrossed bill, repealing so much of an existing act of Congress as declares foreign coins not to be a legal tender, was read the third time and passed without a division.

Mr. Crowninshield having obtained leave, submitted from the committee of commerce and manufactures, a bill to extend the time of taking the oath and giving bond in cases of drawback, and for other purposes, which was referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday.

This bill extends the time to twenty days, and directs five day's notice to be given by the collectors, for which twenty cents, to be equally divided among the collector, naval officer and surveyor, shall be allowed.

Mr. Crowninshield, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, submitted a bill for the relief of Edward Toppan George Jenkins and William Currier, which was referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Mr. J. C. Smith, from the committee of claims, made a report on the memorial of Return J. Meigs, recommending the giving authority to the proper accounting officers of the treasury to settle the accounts of the governor, secretary and judges of the territory north west of the Ohio, for their services while acting in their respective capacities at any time before the first Tuesday in March, 1803, for the term between the admission of Ohio into the Union and the period of the first meeting of the state legislature.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Tuesday.

Mr. Parke presented a petition from the governor, secretary and judges of the Indiana territory, praying compensation for services rendered in the district of Louisiana, which was referred to the committee of claims.

On the motion of Mr. Findley a new rule was adopted, prescribing that it shall be the duty of any committee to meet on

the call of any two of their members, if the chairman be absent or declines calling a meeting.

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.
Debate on the motion of Dr. LOGAN for leave to bring in a bill, to suspend the commercial intercourse between the U. States and St. Domingo.

(Continued.)

Friday, Dec. 20.

Doctor Logan having assigned his reasons for asking permission to introduce the bill,

Mr. ADAMS said—

Mr. PRESIDENT—Had the gentleman who asks leave to introduce this bill, assigned any new reasons as the foundation of his motion, whatever my opinion might have been upon their merits, I should not think it proper to combat them at this time; but the object of the bill is so simple, that its details are immaterial. Its purpose is totally to prohibit a branch of our commerce, which at the last session of the legislature was proved to be of great importance to the country—Unless therefore, a majority of the Senate should be of opinion that the bill ought to pass, it appears to me, that the present is the stage at which it ought to be arrested: since the mere discussion of the question, and pendency of the measure before Congress, may have an unfavorable effect upon the commercial interest, or at least injuriously affect individual merchants, in the course of their affairs.

It is well known to every member upon this floor, and to the public in general, that the same gentleman who now wishes to introduce this bill, did at the last session of Congress make a motion for leave to bring it in at that time, which was rejected; and I expected that on its renewal at this time he would have alleged some new grounds for the measure; but in this expectation I have been disappointed—He tells us indeed that unless we do prohibit this commerce it will inevitably lead us into a war with the French republic: I have certainly no more disposition than any gentleman here to be at war with the French republic; but, excepting that gentleman's assertion, (to which I am willing to give all the credit which it can be entitled to) what particle of evidence have we that the St. Domingo trade will expose us to any such danger? What evidence has the gentleman himself alleged in support of his assertion? Why, sir, he has read to us a part of the President's message, at the opening of the last session of Congress; and a correspondence between the British and French ministers, and the Secretary of State, six or nine months previous to that time, and complaining that some of our merchant vessels were armed—it is surely needless for me to mention in this house, that in consequence of that very passage in the President's message of last year, and of those very complaints of those foreign ministers, a bill did actually pass both houses of Congress, after a long and ample discussion of the subject; which bill was intended to remove those causes of complaint, and is now in force. This bill I have understood was satisfactory on all hands, and it has been within a very few days declared by a member of this body, in his place, to have given satisfaction to the French government in particular, nor has that information been contradicted. This conclusion indeed may be inferred from the tenor of the President's communication to Congress at the commencement of the present session. If any intimation of complaints from foreign powers relative to this subject is contained in this message, it has escaped my attention, and I can indeed safely affirm there is none—and is not this silence itself, a strong, and irresistible proof that no such complaints have been made; but that the measures adopted by Congress at the last session have been satisfactory? Believing it as I do, and that no needless interference of the government with the regular course of commercial transactions ought ever to be countenanced, I hope the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Dr. Logan) will not have leave to bring in this bill.

GEN JACKSON seconded Dr. LOGAN's motion, and in reply to Mr. Adams said, that he wished the Dr. to make it an annual motion, as Mr. Sawbridge had in the Parliament of England to reduce septennial Parliaments, but with more effect until the trade so highly dishonorable to national character was annihilated. As to Mr. Adams's observations that the bill was not allowed to be brought in last session, and that he had heard no new arguments, he would answer the gentleman by asking what new arguments had been advanced on the bill to prohibit the importation of slaves, where leave was given two days since to bring in the bill, and the same arguments had been rung in our ears by Quakers and others, ever since the constitution had been in operation and not a new one had been produced. He said that the day would come when this dishonorable traffic would be ruled by the United States—that day must arrive when a general peace would take place, when the present hostilities must cease; that it must and would then become the interest of every nation of Europe having colonies in the West Indies, to extirpate this horrid or ship them off to some other place. That the United States by affording them succor, arms, ammunition and provisions, must be considered by them as their allies—their supporters and their protectors. That he believed the United States would be viewed in this light by the French government and by themselves,

and that they would demand and expect us to grant them an asylum as allies and protectors, and send them to our coast.— This was no novelty, and he had received information from a late celebrated French general, given in a public company at the city of Washington where he boarded, &c. and the general was one who dined there; that arrangements had been made, if general Le Clerc had been victorious, to send those brigands to the southern states. This was a melancholy subject for South Carolina and Georgia, and one of those brigands introduced into the southern states, was worse than an hundred importations of blacks from Africa, and more dangerous to the United States.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.
HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Friday, December 27, 1805.

An engrossed bill, "To amend the act, entitled, an act, concerning the town of Abingdon," and

A bill, "Providing for the erection of offices for the district courts, and for reimbursing certain expenses incurred by the clerks thereof," were severally read the third time and passed.

Mr. Aylett from the committee for courts of justice, reported the following resolutions:

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the petition of sundry persons, praying that an act may pass, authorising the sum of four thousand dollars to be raised by lottery, for the purpose of building a toll bridge across Cheat river, at the Dunker bottom, and that the rent or toll of the said bridge may be forever applied towards educating poor children in the county of Monongalia, under such regulations as may be deemed proper by the legislature, is reasonable.

Resolved, that the petition of sundry inhabitants of the town of Charlesville, praying that the act which authorises the inhabitants of the said town to elect trustees thereof, may be explained, and that the powers of the said trustees may be enlarged, so far at least, as to authorise the establishment of a school in the said town, is reasonable.

Resolved, that the petition of sundry inhabitants of the city of Richmond, praying that the court of hustings of the said city, may be authorised to establish inspections of butter and lard, and that the same may likewise be authorised in other towns, and also in the counties of this commonwealth, is reasonable.

Resolved, that the petition of Susan Peyton, John Morrow, Addison Bowles, Armistead, Mary H. Armistead, Henry J. Peyton and John Brown, praying that an act may pass, authorising the petitioners, or some of them, to dispose of such of the real estate whereof John Peyton died seized, intestate, as may be designated by commissioners to be appointed; and in order to prevent a sale of certain real property mortgaged by the decedent in his lifetime, to secure a debt due from him: that the proceeds of the said sale may be applied towards discharging the debt aforesaid, is reasonable.

The said resolutions being twice read, were agreed to by the house.

Ordered that the committee for courts of justice do bring in bills pursuant to the said resolutions.

Mr. Tazewell from the committee for courts of justice, reported the following resolutions:

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that so much of the petition of Charles Yancey and Jeremiah Yancey, stated to have been signed by them at the request of a number of the inhabitants of Albemarle county, as prays that an act may pass, making it necessary that a majority of the magistrates of a county should be present when a levy of a considerable amount is laid by the court, is reasonable.

Resolved, that so much of the said petition as prays that a fine may be imposed on magistrates of counties, for failing to attend at the times of laying levies: after being notified of the times appointed for that purpose, be rejected.

Resolved, that the residue of the said petition, praying that in future a majority of the magistrates of a county shall be present when recommendations are made by the county courts to the executive, is reasonable.

Resolved, that such part of the petition of sundry inhabitants of the town of New Market in the county of Shenandoah, as prays, that so much of the act establishing the said town, as appoints trustees thereof, may be repealed; and that an act may be passed authorising the freeholders and housekeepers of the said town to elect other trustees thereof annually; that the said trustees be empowered to regulate the building of houses in the said town; to remove nuisances therein; to impose a penalty, not exceeding one dollar, upon every person running a horse, or playing at the game called Long Bullets, in the streets and alleys of the said town; and to levy a tax, not exceeding eighty dollars annually, upon the housekeepers and inhabitants thereof, to be applied towards keeping the streets, &c. in repair, is reasonable.

Resolved, that the residue of the petition last mentioned, praying that the trustees to be elected as aforesaid, may be authorised to settle all disputes concerning the bounds of lots in the said town, and to make such bye laws, rules and regulations, not contrary to the constitution & laws of this state, or of the United States, as they may think fit, for the good order and government of the said town, be rejected.

The said resolutions being twice read, were on the question put thereupon, agreed to by the house.

Ordered, that bills be brought in pursuant to the 1st, 3d and 4th resolutions, and that the committee for courts of justice do prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Harrison (of Amelia) from the committee of propositions & grievances, made the following report:—

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the petition of sundry inhabitants of the counties of Montgomery, Monroe and Tazewell, praying that all that part of the said counties contained within the following boundaries, to wit:—Beginning at the end of Gaulty mountain on New river, where the county lines of Greenbrier and Kanawha intersect thence up the river with the Greenbrier & Montgomery line, thence with the Moore and Montgomery line to the house of Major Alexander Stuart, thence a straight line to the top of Peter's mountain, leaving the house of Hugh Caperton on the right and the house of John Thompson on the left, at equal distances from the said line thence along the said mountain with the Montgomery and Monroe line to the intersection of Botetourt county line, and with the Botetourt and Montgomery line to the top of Gap mountain, thence along the top of the said mountain to New river, crossing the same, to the end of Walker's mountain, thence along the top of said mountain to the intersection of Wythe county line, thence north westwardly to the intersection of Tazewell county line, & with the Tazewell & Montgomery line to the top of Wolf creek mountain, thence south westwardly along the top of said mountain to a point two miles below the mouth of the Clear Fork of Wolf creek thence as a straight line to a spring of East river, known by the name of the "Big Spring," thence a direct line to the head of Crane creek on the top of the Flat top mountain, thence a direct line to the Three Forks of Guyandotte river, thence down the said river until it intersects Kanawha county line, thence with the said line to the beginning, may form one distinct county, is reasonable.

Resolved, that the petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Monroe, in opposition thereto, be rejected.

Resolved, that the petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Botetourt, praying that the streets and alleys already laid off on the land of James Simpson, near the upper end of the said county, may be established a town by the name of Salem, is reasonable.

The said resolutions being read a second time, were on the question put thereupon, agreed to by the house.

Ordered, that bills be brought in pursuant to the 1st and 3d resolutions, and that the committee of propositions and grievances do prepare and bring in the same.

Saturday, December 28th, 1805.

The engrossed bills making provision for improving and keeping in repair certain parts of the state road leading through the county of Randolph;

Appointing commissioners to view and mark out a way for a road from Thornton's gap in the Blue ridge, to the Little river turnpike road leading to Alexandria, and to raise a certain sum of money by lottery for opening the said road;

Remitting a fine to Graham Bell;

Declaring Clinch river a public highway;

Authorising George Pegram, jun. to erect a public warehouse on his land in the town of Petersburg;

To explain and amend the twenty first section of an act, entitled, an act, for carrying into execution the constitution of the Mutual Assurance Society against fire on buildings of the State of Virginia, lately adopted at a general meeting;

To amend the act, entitled, an act, for establishing an academy in or at the city of Richmond;

Concerning master commissioners in the county and corporation courts, were severally read a third time and passed.

Ordered, that the clerk carry the said bills to the Senate and desire their concurrence.

The engrossed bills concerning William King, a former sheriff of Norfolk county, and William Graham a former sheriff of Monroe county, were severally read a third time, and passed in the negative.

A bill authorising the Executive to purchase the patent right of a gunlock made on an improved plan, and to introduce the same into the public armory, was read a second time, and on a third reading was rejected.

Monday, December 30th, 1805.

The engrossed bill authorising a sum to be raised by lottery for opening a road from Monongalia Glades, to the mouth of Fishing creek; remitting certain militia fines; establishing certain inspections of flour, were severally read a third time and passed.

Ordered, that the clerk carry the said bills to the Senate and desire their concurrence.

A report from the committee of propositions and grievances, (which lay on the table) was taken up and read in the following words:

Resolved, that the petition of sundry inhabitants of the borough of Norfolk, praying that a law may pass, authorising the establishment of another ferry from the said borough across the waters of Elizabeth river, and placed under the direction of the court thereof, is reasonable.

That the petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Norfolk, in opposition thereto, be rejected.

That the petition of sundry inhabitants of the borough of Norfolk, praying ha